

# The Jewish Herald

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## THE BAPTIST CONVENTION.

The Northern Baptist Convention, which met in Philadelphia last week, having preceded the World's Congress of Baptists, now in session, passed several resolutions which show that the spirit that animated Roger Williams, who stood first and foremost amongst the great men of the Colonial period in the advocacy of real religious liberty, still pervades that large and influential denomination. The Northern Baptists at their final session declared: "That the free public schools of the United States, supported by taxation of all the people representing every conceivable shade of religious conviction, should not, in the present state of society, undertake the religious training of the youth."

"That President Taft be requested to consider the advisability of asking the nations of the world, either by treaty, by the Hague Peace Conference, or by calling an international conference, to secure religious liberty for the people of every faith of the world."

In the first of these resolutions the convention undoubtedly expressed the sentiments of a majority of the American people. The only way in which the public schools can be maintained as a popular institution, free from sectarian bias of any kind, is to maintain the principle thus enumerated and carry it out in good faith.

The second resolution was directly aimed against all religious persecutions and was inspired largely by the presence at the convention of a number of Russian Baptists who had come all the way from Russia to attend the two conventions. These pilgrims from the Czar's dominions have suffered many annoyances in their own land. Their experiences presented a forcible demonstration of the way in which religious liberty is interpreted by the Czar and his officials. Several of their number had been imprisoned in Russia. They objected to any specific denunciations of Russian persecution, because they feared that it would do them more harm than good. No doubt they were right in that. The traditional "friend" of the United States is only magnanimous when it comes to extending superficial international "courtesies" of the showy variety.—Jewish Exponent.

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## OUR JEWISH SOCIETIES.

By Lena Appelbaum.

To me has been assigned the subject of outlining briefly the character of the societies in our midst, especially those centering around the congregation in whose temple I have the sacred privilege of becoming confirmed. Not without feelings of doubt do I venture on the task, which must tax far greater ability than that of a child.

The Jews are famous for taking care of their poor. They always show full appreciation of the saying that "it is more blessed to give than to receive," and in their hearts they give thanks to God for the privilege of being able to render aid when called on. Wherever a handful of Jews congregate, there rises up a religious organization, the synagogue, and from that central place of worship springs a network of societies for charitable, social and educational purposes. Generally the first society organized is that for meeting the problems of poverty and need that come before the community.

Houston is no exception to the rule. From a modest beginning, Congregation Beth Israel has grown steadily, under God's guidance, till today it occupies as influential a position as any in the South. It has had the advantage of being blessed with spiritual leaders of splendid moral qualities and great scholarship. No one who preceded him has set the members a better example in relieving distress and reducing want than our own beloved rabbi, Dr. Henry Barnstein. Long and faithfully he has labored among us, and spurred his people on to do the will of God. May the Lord continue him in our midst for many years to come, and send peace and happiness in his home and bless all his efforts.

The most important society in Houston is the Independent Order of B'nai B'rith. It is an honor to be a Ben B'rith, "a Son of the Covenant." The order draws to itself the very best elements in our religion. It concerns itself not alone with local matters, but is a power in national and international affairs. No difference where an outrage is committed, a wrong to be righted, an injustice to be corrected, an evil to be banished, the Order sets machinery to work to adjust matters as well as conditions will allow. Its

members are noted for their contributions to charity and in cases of great need, Jews the world over know that the B'nai B'rith can be depended on.

A little incident, one of thousands, will illustrate how necessary such a society is in the life of the Jews. There arrived in London a family with a very sick child of six years of age. Its disease was contagious. Under the Alien Immigration Acts, the little one was ordered deported to Russia. The President of the London Lodge was notified, who interceded to such good purpose with the Home Office that the B'nai B'rith was allowed to care for the child till cured. Daily, here and abroad, the Order steps in and averts and relieves distress in thousands of cases where no other agency would or could do any good.

In Houston the Order has a very representative membership. Its direct local duties are discharged by active personal efforts, and its work is noble, creditable and beneficial. The I. O. B. B. is the main support of the Jewish Orphans Home of New Orleans, of the Consumptives Home of Denver and the Sanatorium at Hot Springs. The ex-President of the District Grand Lodge resides in this city, which made Houston a still more powerful center. The President's high position in the city, his social importance, his charitable work and unfailing kindness and courtesy have won for him the love and esteem of the general public. His kindness knows no limit or creed, and Houston Jews are justly proud of Mr. Henry J. Dannenbaum.

The ladies of the congregation do charitable work of a character which could only be undertaken by those whose great sympathies prompt them to relieve suffering and distress. Each lady lends herself to the benevolent labors of the society to which she belongs to the extent of opening purse and home, and giving freely of her time whenever called on. The Beth Israel Benevolent Society is responsible for many years past for untold good done to deserving and oftentimes undeserving applicants. The officers of the society have always shown marked ability in discharging nobly all

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## PRESIDENT'S SILVER WEDDING

Washington, D. C., June 20, 1911.—Amid a blaze of light and a fanfare of trumpets, with the notes of the "Star Spangled Banner" and the "Lohen-grin" wedding march, President William Howard Taft and his spouse descended the steps of the White House at 9 o'clock last evening, in the presence of thousands of guests, among them nicely gowned women, uniformed officers and the shining of epaulets and dress of the foreign ambassadors. Under a huge tree, with the figures 1886-1911 in electric jets, the President of the United States, his wife, his daughter, Miss Helen Taft, supported by cabinet officers and their wives, received the multitudes, greeting each with a smile, and repeating the names as announced by his aide-de-camp, Major Butt. The reception lasted two hours, and the large garden, with its prismatic fountain, its beautiful lanterns, its lovely walks, and the resplendent scene in all, looked like a veritable fairyland. It was a dream long to linger in mind. The guests afterward passed into the spacious halls of the White House, and were handed refreshments.

True to his colors, President Taft had sent out invitations to representative men of every phase and denomination. Jewish ministers and laymen from various parts of the country were in evidence, among those noticed being: New York city, Rabbi Elias L. Solomon and wife, Rev. Dr. Samuel Schulman and wife, Rev. Dr. Joseph Silverman, Rabbi M. S. Margolies, Rev. Dr. Bernard Drachman, Rev. Dr. I. S. Moses and daughter, Rabbi M. M. Kaplan and wife, Rev. Dr. David De Sola Pool, Rev. Henry S. Morais, Rev. Joseph Jason, Rev. Gust. N. Hausmann; Boston, Mass., Rev. Phineas Israel and wife; Washington, D. C., Rev. L. Stern, Rabbi Silverstein; Philadelphia, Pa., Rabbi Leventhal and wife, Rev. Leon H. Elmaleh, Rev. Eli Mayer; Newark, N. J., Rev. Solomon Foster, Rev. J. Leucht; Denver, Col., Rev. Dr. C. H. Kauvar; Helena, Mont., Rev. A. Abelson. Rev. S. Foster, of Newark, presented for that city a silver tablet with an inscription for peace from Isaiah.

As it was understood a hundred Jewish ministers were invited to the President and Mrs. Taft's silver wedding anniversary, the suggestion was made that a testimonial to be presented by these to our Chief Executive and his wife, in the shape of a Hebrew and English Bible of magnificent design, bound in silver and suitably inscribed. Steps will soon be taken to have the project carried out.—Hebrew Standard.